

ABSTRACT

In storing main information such moving image data and metadata accompanying the main information, for a metadata item for which a plurality of description forms are present, a priority table in which the priority of each description form is set for each item is held in advance. Under limitation conditions related to metadata storage due to the data collection time of metadata or the calculation time of a value corresponding to a description form, a metadata item and description form are employed in descending order of priority held in the priority table (S122) whereby metadata is formed and stored in correspondence with main information (S126). With this arrangement, it is reliably possible to use supplementary information in a form that can be used at least in wide-ranging devices and control schemes, and it is also possible to use supplementary information that can make use of the characteristic feature of each device or control scheme.